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MYSTERY

—A—

SUBSTITUTE FOR WIT.

—BY—

MIKE WHELAN.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR.

KANSAS CITY, MO.:
M. J. MADICK, PRINTER, 423 WALNUT STREET.
1889.

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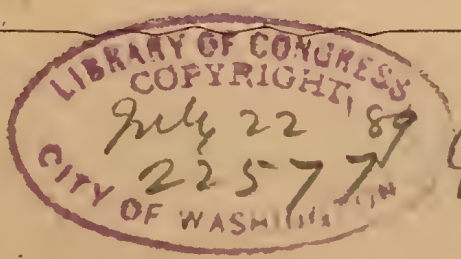

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FRIENDS can aid in circulating their views as printed in this Prospectus; all orders for which, and all remittances, must be directed to—

M. WHELAN,
No: 1515 Cherry Street,
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI,
U. S.

TO the Paid Subscribers of the INCIDENT, a copy of this pamphlet will be sent free on request.

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MYSTERY.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WIT.

The substitute is the most noted feature of our present civilization. This proposition has no bearing as to the value of mystery over wit further than as either may be taken or understood. It is assumed that certain ideas are made more forcible by their mysteriousness or that mystery lends a piquancy, as for instance, "*Oratory*" like "*Linked Sausage*," the more snap there is to it the better it takes hold on an audience. My design was to lecture upon the subject and though fully satisfied in my own mind of the many valuable charms that attach themselves to the substitute over the original, yet I did not have the requisite egotism to bring it before the public without first laying the project before certain of my acquaintances in doing which I chose the most prominent men in the different lines of thought and

action. With this end in view and with my friend, "*Mark*" along, I proceed to take the views of my friends and to note them down as they are given. It may be well to state that Mark will do the questioning and make any outside remarks that are made on the views given by my friends, and though sometimes sarcastic he is rarely unjust.

The interview of my friend "*Affluence*:" Mr. Affluence is a noted political economist. Though not an active producer he holds large protected interests in a number of institutions. Having read the design of the lecture, he said: "Splendid idea; no better illustration of the protection of our industries; 'Linked Sausage,' very expressive indeed. This idea of yours must strike the 'Free Trader' very forcibly and must cause them to laugh. As a political economist you have my thanks."

Mark: "The less genius and the more hog a man brings to market the better he fares. Yet that man is a philosopher; he is willing those paying for the joke should do the grinning."

Mr. Footit is a *free trader*. His views: "Yes yes, the '*Linked Sausage*' fully illustrates the infamy perpetrated by protection. It shows what a thin covering there is to the cheat and how easily it may be concealed. Protection is an insult to honest purpose. It makes the workers a party to the cheat besides qualifying them for other crime. It is a bonus for the surplus labor of Europe that makes tramps and paupers of us."

Mr. Arbitration, a walking delegate of the "*Knights of Labor*," expresses himself: "'*Linked Sausage*' comes as near expressing the design and purpose of the 'K. of L.' as anything that could be thought of. It represents co-operation linking industry with secrecy."

Mark: "It is thought that the '*K. of L.*' is not a secret organization, at least some Roman Catholics hold that view. Well yes that is true only to a certain extent. The 'A. K.' or ritual of secret work seldom gets out of the officers' possession, and there is nothing in the Constitution which Catholics can object to."

Mark, after the delegate had left: "Well, well, it is just as I knew and said to Catholics, that the secret work of the '*K. of L.*' was kept in the dark as well as the POPE!"

N. B. Mark was master workman in the Knights of Labor organization, for as he says: "about five minutes." MARK is more catholic than Roman which accounts for his sudden withdrawal from them.

Mr. Thoughtful who is said to be an *Anarchist:* "Well no the '*Linked Sausage*,' though it points to the manner of concealing dynamite, as in cartridges, it can have no meaning in such regard to men who think as I do. The anarchism that I hold is that love of freedom that inhears to all civilized beings. Our philosophy is larger than the earth and broader than the heavens and is calculated to operate upon the body politic as Iodide of Potassium acts upon the physical body. Not handicapped by social or other isms, it is held by us that the whole world is not worth the sacrifice of one human life, nor would we beat any one

out of a dollar, nor cheat them out of a dollars worth."

It will be observed that my friend Mark made no comment upon the interview of Mr. Thoughtful. I can only account for it in this way. Mark is an inventor. He has invented a device to be known as the Membrain Grip, the purpose of which as the specification disclose in his application for a patent is to open the eyes of those that are closed to the worst features of the present economic system.

Mr. Culture, who is a farmer and a member of the legislature: "The '*Linked Sausage*' is very pointed. It strikes us law makers pretty hard. The fact is there is too much mystery and concealment where there should be none. We farmers are responsible, for we are really the law makers, that is as far as numbers go, though we make none, because all the laws and charters are made by interested parties on the outside. So we merely by our votes make them laws. The great mass may not be prepared to draw a check on a

bank yet by a simple piece of paper they can draw a Legislature. This fact should warn us of our danger, because were power so placed, the visionary schemes of the reformer would at any time ruin us. For instance, were all the tax for the support of our free institutions to be collected of the land our position would be deplorable. Should crops fail, or sickness prevail in the family the result would be *helter skelter* or the devil take the hind most. This means the worst phase of confiscation."

Mark: I hold that it should be the sole business of the legislator to equalize the bounties of nature according to the strength or weakness of every creature and that those who regulate industry should have that end in view all the time. Nor is it sound philosophy to place either a tax or a price upon land because all depend upon it for existence, consequently it should not be made a commodity of that is liable to be bartered and sold or gambled away, thus diverting it from its proper use and purpose. The diverting of the land from its

proper use and purpose is mainly the cause of a good deal of the crime and most of the suffering and destitution amongst otherwise enlightened and prosperous nations. I hold that *Occupancy and Occupation* should be the only title to the possession of the land free and unrestricted by either price or tax."

The interview of *Professor Sneermost.* The professor was the teacher of law and physics in the college of *Dam.* Disagreements were frequent between him and Professor Caremost, the teacher of moral philosophy and Belles Letters. On the discipline of the institution Caremost usually had the best of the discussions, as well as the full approval of the conservators of the institution. This made Sneermost very jealous of his successful rival as he was a rigid disciplinarian to have his theories upset by the logic of the moral philosopher. But it is rather funny, the cause that led to the final outbreak aud the withdrawal of Sneermost from the school. The question, it may be said, did not belong to either of their professions to solve, viz: the cure of

"*hydrophobia*." The theory of Professor Sneermost was that the blood of the dog injected into the system would be an antidote for the disease in the human being. Professor Caremost held that natural remedies for unnatural disorders may be found. He cited a case to confirm this view wherein he had noticed a bird after sipping the poison from an animal that had died from the disease, fly straight to a rose bush in a garden close by and commence pecking and sipping of the juice of the hairy excrescence that grow upon the rose bush the same as on the oak of the forest. Reason if not science would suggest a decoction or tea be extracted from the excrescence and given to the patient as an antidote for the poison of the dog. The color of the juice of the excrescence and the blood of the dog are identical. The extra length of this introduction of my friend Professor Sneermost is justified by his great prominence.

Professor Sneermost: "The 'linked sausage' is an apt illustration of what I have always tried to convince the ignor-

ant, while at the same time giving them sound instruction for their government, viz: natural objects may be linked and their strength and value be calculated by their specific gravity, the link or strain to equal the object in view, the object to be gained governing the result obtained."

Mark: "The Professor is an intellectual blasphemer, because any theory whose purpose is not to embellish or enlarge natural opportunities is mischievous and unworthy of serious or intelligent consideration. A fact needs no qualification, its products decides its application."

The interview of my friend *Analysis:*

Mr. Analysis: "The 'linked sausage' fully illustrates the abstract principle by the proposition 'snap.' The word 'snap' is suggestive of dog. Dog is not an abstract principle, but it is the active principle in politics as well as in the profession of the law. The dog is a social animal, not by nature, but by acquisition. Nature has been more kind to the dog than to the politician or the lawyer. The

requisite wisdom that they must acquire to be successful is *gall and bluster*. This wisdom is natural to the dog. The dog has a worm in his tongue that makes speech impossible, else training schools for the politician and the lawyer would be unheard of. Thus the abstract proposition 'snap' becomes the active as relating to the dog or the lawyer."

Mark: "I hold that the training of the lawyer unfits him for any honorable position in society; much less—that it qualifies him to make laws to regulate industry or commerce. Their usefulness, if they have any, should be confined to the practice of their profession, though it is very wrong to oblige any person to practice a profession not based on either moral or philosophical principles. As to the dog, he is supplied by nature with instinct, so that some philosophers account it moral; but the profession of the law can figure out nothing in logic that will pass for ethics but *rotten sentiment*."

The interview of my friend *Subtile*. Mr. Subtile is much thought of as a metaphysician; his views: "'Linked sau-

sage' fully illustrates the theory of evolution materially considered, as all the inherent qualities or principles are contained under the cover of the mysterious 'sausage,' and were it not for the fact that popular education, which may be illustrated by the same 'linked sausage,' and almost in the same words creates a mystery where there should be none. The 'sausage' fitly illustrates such education as 'hide bound.'"

The absence of Mark, or any comment upon the above interview, will be fully explained further along. His time will be taken up in getting the work of his patent device, *i. e.*, the *Membrain Grip*, into shape for the purpose of illustration as previously referred to, on which account I will close the interviewing with the interview of a reporter.

Reporter: "Your lecture should prove a howling success. There is lots of mystery under the cover of 'linked sausage,' that it contains 'snap' that takes hold on an audience, if not on their intellects at least on their stomachs, may reasonably be accepted. It reminds me of an

interview that I wrote up for our paper. There is a seeming coincidence in the character of each subject. The Major gives *Makebelieve* a sinecure position, no other would fit him as he is laziness personified. It may be said of him that his most prominent inheritance was the lurking fever. Now in order to draw Makebelieve out and have a joke at his expense I attacked him on his weakness jokingly. I said to him 'Makebelieve, I understand the Major is going to give you the grand bounce.'

"Makebelieve: 'I dunno sir, I've *done nothing to earn it.*'"

The foregoing interviews fully illustrate the fact that mysterious objects take on the color of a person's thoughts. Those of a political nature would seem to have their features colored from the present administration's gallipot or from democracy generally. The proposition was designed to elicit comments varied and philosophical, consequently the lecturer in reviewing the different interviews will endeavor to discuss them from just and reasonable premises. 'Tis plain

that in order to understand the design of the artist we must be in line with his canvas, and though allegory and metaphor are the proper weapons to discuss foul subjects before a polite public, the importance of the subjects elicited by the interviews, will be the lecturer's justification for the use of pretty plain speech in the following review. It will be now in order to state a few basic principles:

1st. Conditions are the greatest humanizing agencies known to moral philosophy or economic science.

2d. Money may ameliorate, but will not redress the wrongs of a people.

3d. Policy is a monster of many heads, *i. e.*, equity, arbitration, diplomacy, expediency, &c., &c.

4th. This country is just worth all that can be got out of it for home consumption.

5th. In a government of the people for the people, it is a blasphemous idea to say that the producer shall have no interest in what his labor and industry creates above the actual cost of production.

6th. The investment of money in society is a curse, while the investment of money in industry is a benefit to society.

7th. Principles suggest conditions, while policy demands schemes.

8th. Principles will raise humanity out of the rut of vice and ignorance as though it was gifted with the wings of a dove, while policy demands the eagle's beak and claws.

With those few basic principles, and the declaration that they are the principles of all who have the best interests of humanity at heart, the review commences with the interview of Mr. Affluence. At this point I am apprised by the artist that it will take more time than I had any idea of to perfect the engraving for the illustration of the *Review*. The delay it is presumed will serve a profitable purpose by admitting the publication of this much as an advertisement, or a sort of a prospectus for the book proper, *i. e.*, the *Review*. Besides it will give my friends the pleasure of seeing their views in print in time to make any correction

or suggestion they may desire. In compliment to the newspaper reporter allowing himself to be interviewed upon the subject of MYSTERY, A SUBSTITUTE FOR WIT, it is decided to charge the maximum rate for this advertisement, though I allow it is something unusual to charge for advertisements in pamphlet form.

Feeling somewhat puzzled as to the best manner of letting the public know when the *Review* would be ready for circulation, that they might send on the subscription of $——, I had recourse to my friend Mark, for advice as to the best plan to accomplish the desired result.

Mark: "Nothing easier, I will take just one link of the 'linked sausage' and I will render it out by my patent device, the aroma from which will strike the olfactory nerve of the 'Johnston Webster' element of present and future generations. You may rely upon the 'Membrain Grip.'"

To conclude this pamphlet, or advertisement, I cannot do better than describe a scene that occurred in Edinburgh,

Scotland. There is no mention of such scene in any version of Burn's Poems that I have seen; Burns had composed the song *Is There for Honest Poverty*; being in company of two boon companions one evening after his first visit to Edinburgh, viz: Alexander Cochran and Alexander Richie. Cochran was an actor as well as a wit, while Richie was by trade a stone-cutter. Upon the song being rendered by the poet, Alex. Richie declared such sentiments should find a place in print. Up to this time Burns was not known in print either as poet or philosopher, that he was both his answer goes to show, as well as that he knew his genius and saw his difficulties. To Richie he answered:

"The rarest bird in pins,
"From cottage cage or heather;
"Flat falls the notes he sings,
"When he is not in feather."

To this Cochran the actor replied:

"If you design in print to shine and a' that,
"Just dip your pen in carmine;
"It will then be red for a' that."

This witty advice will be made a prominent feature of the *Review*.

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